

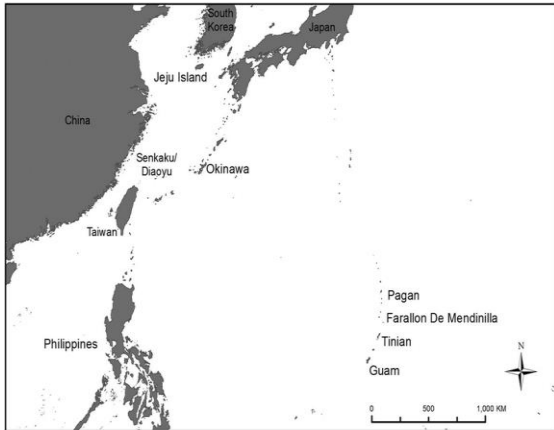
SC On article 200

- The Supreme Court has given a timely reminder to Governors that the Constitution expects that a decision to return a Bill to the State Assembly for reconsideration should be made “as soon as possible”.
- It has drawn attention to the phrase found in the first proviso to Article 200, seeking to convey a sense of immediacy in the matter of returning a Bill.
- “The expression ‘as soon as possible’ contains significant constitutional content and must be borne in mind by constitutional authorities,” the Court observed.
- This effectively means it would be constitutionally impermissible for Governors to hold on to Bills indefinitely without communicating their decision to the House.
- The Governor’s power to withhold assent or return a Bill, with a message, for reconsideration is seen as discretionary.
- In the Constituent Assembly, it was explicitly clarified that returning a Bill was to be done only on advice and that it was an enabling provision for a government to recall a pending Bill in case it had second thoughts on its advisability.
- There are three clear problems associated with Article 200, which deals with assent to Bills: the absence of a time limit for acting on Bills, the scope for reserving a Bill for the President’s consideration against the express advice of the Cabinet, and the claim that the Governor can kill any Bill by declining assent
- Article 163, hedges the primary rule that the Governors function on the ‘aid and advice’ of the Cabinet, with a clause that prohibits any inquiry into whether a particular matter fell within their discretion or not.
- These provisions give abundant scope for conflict between the government and Raj Bhavan.

THE HINDU

Washington Declaration

- Under the new pact, labeled the “Washington Declaration”, U.S. strategic assets will be deployed around the Korean Peninsula and a joint Nuclear Consultative Group will share tactical information, engage in joint training, and coordinate military responses to any potentially hostile actions by North Korea.



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- While Washington will remain the sole authority deciding on whether or not to carry out a nuclear response in any such eventuality, the Biden administration will step up its contribution to symbolic deterrence against the North by sending, for the first time in 40 years, nuclear-armed submarines to the region, though they are unlikely to be a permanent deployment. U.S. tactical nuclear weapons stationed in South Korea were withdrawn from the region in 1991.
- The cryosphere includes the Arctic and Antarctic regions (called “sea ice”), glaciers, the ice sheets of Greenland and Antarctica (area of ice on land covering more than 50,000 km²), seasonal snow cover, and permafrost (mass of land that remains below 0 degree Celsius for at least two straight years).



THE HINDU

Sports events and climate change

- India has committed to reaching net-zero emissions by 2070 and has also committed to reducing the emissions intensity of its GDP by 45% by 2030.
- Given this context, an examination of the environmental impact of India’s biggest summer festival and an exploration of ways to make it more sustainable is ideal.
- For the IPL, studies estimate that a single match produces emissions in the range of 10,000 tCO₂e to 14,000 tCO₂e (or tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent).
- Over a season, this figure can reach up to 750k tCO₂e to 900k tCO₂e per year to absorb these emissions. In 2018, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) signed an agreement to implement the concept of ‘zero

waste' or 'green protocol' to reduce wastage from cricket stadiums.

- This is a step in the right direction.
- Stadiums and facilities might often be perceived as one of the biggest contributors to carbon emissions. However, a comprehensive emissions assessment shows a different story.
- The emissions generated by sports venues only account for about 5% of the total, whereas digital viewership during events such as the IPL contributes to more than three-fourths of the total emissions footprint.
- In addition, data centers are the second most significant contributor to emissions, something that might often go unnoticed.
- Spectator travel, luxury accommodation, and backup generators round up the list of top five emitters.
- Simple changes such as replacing LCD screens in our homes with energy-efficient LED displays can reduce the emission from each TV screen by 35%-40%, resulting in as much as a 20% reduction in the overall carbon footprint of such highly televised sports tournaments.
- A transition to renewable energy sources for the data centers and data streaming infrastructure can further

reduce the IPL's carbon emissions by over 10%

THE HINDU

China vs USA

- The U.S. was not looking to decouple from China but to de-risk from it, decoupling means the separation of previously linked systems so that they may operate independently. Highlighted the need for World Trade Organization (WTO) reform and said the primacy of tariff reduction as the driving force of the global trade agenda was over.
- He emphasized instead a paradigm where the U.S. was working with its allies to build manufacturing capacity in key sectors and the resilience, via supply chains, to withstand shocks such as climate change, wars, and pandemics
- U.S. was not only working with other advanced economies but also emerging ones such as India, with which the U.S. was working "on everything from hydrogen to semiconductors.
- These challenges included creating diversified and resilient supply chains, mobilizing investment for a "just" clean energy transition and sustainable economic growth, an agreement on corporate taxation,

labor, and environmental standards, and supporting jobs that supported the middle class.

- The administration's position was that the operating model of multilateral development banks (MDBs), especially the World Bank, needed to be reformed to address climate change, conflict, and fragility.
- Debt relief for vulnerable countries, and called on China the world's largest official creditor to "step up" and play a constructive role in relief for debt distressed countries.



THE HINDU

